

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- Sal AI
- 1) A software control method comprising:
forming a two dimensional view of a computer defined graphical model;
generating a drawing data item associated with a component of the two dimensional view;
forming a user interface for controlling the addition of the drawing data item to the two dimensional view;
adding the drawing data item to the two dimensional view responsive to activation of a user interactive device comprising the user interface.
 - 2) The software control method of claim 1 wherein the drawing data item is a dimension.
 - 3) The software control method of claim 1 wherein a drawing data item is added to the two dimensional view semi-automatically responsive to the expiration of a predetermined time-out period and in the absence of an intervening user action.
 - 4) The software control method of claim 3 wherein the intervening action comprises activation of a pause button.
 - 5) The software control method of claim 1 additionally comprising the step of modifying the drawing data item.
 - 6) The software control method of claim 1 additionally comprising the step of deleting the drawing data item such that the item will not appear in subsequent two dimensional views of the computer defined model.
 - 7) The software control method of claim 1 additionally comprising the step of stopping the generation of drawing data items and forming an additional two dimensional view.
 - 8) The software control method of claim 7 wherein a modification of a drawing data item is reproduced in a subsequently formed two dimensional view.
 - 9) The software control method of claim 1 additionally comprising selecting between an automatic or semi-automatic mode of drawing data generation,

wherein selecting an automatic mode causes the software to branch and generate drawing data without requiring the formation of a user interface for controlling the addition of a subsequent drawing data item to the two dimensional view and adds the drawing data item to the two dimensional view without requiring activation of a user interactive device.

- 10) The software control method of claim 9 wherein a semi-automatic mode comprises a time-out period during which a user can activate a user interactive device causing the drawing data generation process to be paused.
- 11) The software control method of claim 10 additionally comprising the step of modifying drawing data while the generation process is paused.
- 12) The software control method of claim 10 additionally comprising the step of automatically generating additional drawing data following modification of drawing data.
- 13) The software control method of claim 1 additionally comprising the step of filtering particular drawing data from the two dimensional view.
- 14) The software control method of claim 1 additionally comprising the step of filtering particular two dimensional views from being formed.
- 15) A computer system for controlling generation of drawing data relating to a two dimensional view of a computer defined model, the system comprising:
 - a processor operatively interconnected to a memory;
 - a user input device;
 - a display; and
 - a graphical user interface comprising user interactive devices wherein the system is responsive to activation of the user interactive devices by causing a semi-automatic mode of transfer of drawing data associated with the two dimensional view.
- 16) The computer system of claim 15 wherein the drawing data comprises a dimension.
- 17) The computer system of claim 15 wherein the drawing data is added to the two dimensional view semi-automatically responsive to the expiration of a predetermined time-out period without an intervening user action.

- 18) A computer program residing on a computer-readable medium, the program comprising instructions for causing a computer to:
form a two dimensional view of a computer defined graphical model;
generate a drawing data item associated with a component of the two dimensional view;
form a user interface for controlling the addition of the drawing data item to the two dimensional view;
add the drawing data item to the two dimensional view responsive to activation of a user interactive device comprising the user interface.
- 19) A method of interacting with a computer so as to add drawing data to a two dimensional view of an object, the method comprising:
launching an application which includes a command to add drawing data in a semi-automatic mode;
extracting drawing data from a three dimensional model;
generating the drawing data on the two dimensional view; and
modifying the generated drawing data.
- 20) The method of claim 19 additionally comprising the step of storing the modified drawing data.
- 21) A method of interacting with a computer so as to add drawing data to a two dimensional view of an object, the method comprising:
launching an application which includes a command to add drawing data in a semi-automatic mode;
defining a timeout period;
extracting drawing data from a three dimensional model;
generating the drawing data on the two dimensional view;
pausing the extraction of data from the three dimensional model; and
modifying the generated drawing data.
- 22) A programmed computer for adding drawing data to a two dimensional view of an object comprising:
a memory having at least one region for storing computer software code;

a processor operatively interconnected to the memory for executing software code stored in the memory, wherein the software code causes the computer to:
display a first user interactive interface for selecting specified drawing data, a drawing and selected views of the drawing;
display a second user interactive interface for selecting between an automatic and semi-automatic mode of generating drawing data;
display a third user interactive interface for selecting step-by-step processing or time-out processing of drawing data;
generate drawing data;
allow user modification of the drawing data;
store modified drawing data; and
add the drawing data to the two dimensional view.

- 23) The programmed computer of claim 22 wherein the software code additionally causes the computer to:
display a fourth user interactive interface with a user interactive device for entering a time-out period; and
an interactive user device for pausing the generation of drawing data, whereby a user can modify the drawing data during the pause.